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Acting
Friday
October 17, 1952

Staff meeting.

The Red Cross sent a mobile wagon around to take x-rays of lungs and chests of any Departmental personnel who wished this free service. I took advantage of it.

I talked to Bob Grinnell, who had been in the Consulate in Paris where he had done excellent work. He has been engaged here for two years in special visa activities. I want to recommend him for a responsible post in the field when his term in Washington is up. Although he is still quite young, I think he is [redacted] capable of handling heavy responsibilities.

Jane and John Gunther came for lunch at the office with E. He is leaving soon to write a book [redacted] titled "Inside Africa". To gather material for it, they propose to spend the next eight months on the African continent. They have been briefed in the Department and our missions have been alerted to their forthcoming visits.

Messrs. Linder, Asher and Sohm went over their numerous pressing and interesting problems in the economic area.

Afterwards, Harold Linder and myself saw Henri Bonnet and gave him an aide memoire, together with an oral explanation requesting once again that the French Government permit the international organization [redacted] dealing with export controls of strategic materials to make public some of the understandings [redacted] arrived at in that field. Everyone now except the French is in agreement [redacted] this should be done. The matter is pressing here because we fear revival of the kind of attempts made by Senator Kem further to hamstring any flexibility of

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action in these matters. Largely for reasons of domestic politics, the French have thus far been unwilling to give us the ammunition we need for our dealings with Congress.

Eric Severeid asked me to inquire into our present attitude on the Tunisian and Moroccan questions which will be discussed at the UN meeting. He has just returned from a long trip following the campaigners, and thinks Stevenson will have a slight edge at election time over Eisenhower. He believes Stevenson will continue to gain strength and Eisenhower to lose it and that, if the election were to take place in early December, there would be no doubt of a Democratic victory.

Davis, my former butler, who had been with Cary Grayson for 22 years before he came to me, called to ask for a recommendation supporting his request for employment at the Security Storage Company. I had obtained an excellent position for him some years ago at the National Gallery but he remained there only a year, attracted from it by an offer of higher pay elsewhere. He is 72 years old but appears to be in excellent health.

I had a long talk with Bill Draper this evening, [redacted] When he took on the position at SRE he had told the President he could only hold it for a year. This year will be up in January, and he hopes to be allowed to retire within a month or two thereafter. He says he has been in Government service most of the time for the last eleven years, has more or less exhausted his accumulated earnings and must get back to private business.

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I stopped tonight at the Obelisk Gallery on P Street, which is about to be opened by Kathryn Eicholz. She lived for a long time in Rome, and has accumulated the works of [redacted] modern Italian painters which she will shortly present for sale. I was [redacted] pleasantly impressed by those on display, especially by the paintings of Caffé and Pagliacci.

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